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HAMILTON COUNTY
REPORTER

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THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 2023
 ARCADIA | ATLANTA | CICERO | SHERIDAN
 CARMEL | FISHERS | NOBLESVILLE | WESTFIELD




TODAY'S WEATHER
 Today: HIGH WIND WATCH. Gusts to 60 mph! Morning showers and storms. Some could be severe. Morning high near 60, with temps falling to the mid 40s by afternoon.
 Tonight: Mostly cloudy.
 HIGH: near 60 LOW: 42




Public computer offers help to local residents facing eviction

Program developed by Indiana Bar Foundation provides free access to legal services for underserved residents

The REPORTER
Hamilton County residents facing eviction or housing instability now have a free legal resource at their fingertips. A new desktop computer, scanner, and printer with access to Indiana-LegalHelp.org were installed in the court's Legal Self-Help Center last week.

"In Indiana, housing evictions are considered a civil matter," Court Administrator Jill Acklin said, "which means individuals are not provided legal representation and are often left to navigate the legal system on their own. Resources like these are critical in helping Hoosiers access the resources they need – especially those who don't have access to reliable internet connectivity."

The Indiana Bar Foundation received a \$13 million two-year grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to fund the development and deployment of 120 self-help kiosks. At least one will be placed in each of Indiana's 92 counties. Each kiosk provides legal forms, instructional videos, referrals to free and low-cost legal services, and a statewide calendar of free legal advice clinics. The kiosks will begin offering other legal topics later this year.

"These kiosks are an innovative solution to increasing access to justice and providing underserved communities services they so badly need," Acklin added.

Individuals needing legal help with an eviction or housing instability are encouraged to access resources offered at IndianaLegalHelp.org.



Acklin



Photo provided
At least one of these self-help kiosks will be installed in each of Indiana's 92 counties.

An election is coming

The problem with the Democrats is they are trying to put lipstick on a pig, but they have 50 pigs and only one lipstick.

President Biden will have big shoes for the Democrats to fill but filling his other end is what many worry about. He's not worried about the deficit – it's big enough to look out for itself.

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich by promising to protect each from the other. A politician is a person who can make waves and then make you think he's the only one who can save the ship. There are many men of principle in both parties in America, but there is no party of principle.

All of us who are concerned for peace and triumph of reason and justice must be keenly aware how small influence and reason and honest goodwill exert upon events in the political field. Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy. It is a good thing that we don't get all the politics that we pay for. We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.

"You may fool all the people some of the time, you can even fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time." – Abraham Lincoln

COLUMNIST



RAY ADLER
Ask Adler

Westfield Lions Club ramps up its scholarship program

The REPORTER
The Westfield Lions Club is now accepting applications for four scholarships to be awarded to Westfield High School graduating seniors. Each of these four scholarships is valued at \$2,000.

The scholarships include the Lester Tudor Memorial Scholarship for academic achievements and the Florence Benson Memorial Scholarship for combining community service and academic excellence. The other two scholarships, the Don Russel Career Development Scholarship and the Trade & Vocational School



Scholarship, are for students planning to attend trade or vocational schools.

In addition to these four scholarships, the Westfield Lions are working on appropriating funding for additional scholarships for students in the SOS (Service over Self) Club. The SOS Club focuses on performing service work in the Westfield community.

The Lions are planning a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the "Miracle League," which provides opportunities for children with disabilities to play baseball. Details for the March 18 event, to be held in the Westfield High School cafeteria, will be coming soon.

Applications for the Lions' scholarships are now available through the Westfield High School Guidance Office. Applications will be received until March 27, 2023.

Scholarship recipients will be honored by the Westfield Lions Club at a meeting in May.

The Westfield Lions Club has been a part of the Westfield and Washington Township community since being chartered in 1930. Now meeting in their new building at 1031 E. 169th St., the Lions welcome anyone interested in becoming a member. Go to Westfield-Lions.org to find out more about the club and how to join.

HSE school board members set to decide on \$5.7M in federal mental health funds

By CAMILA FERNANDEZ
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A multimillion-dollar [federal grant to help address the mental health of students](#) faces opposition at Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Parents have raised concerns about what this could mean for their students.

According to school officials, board members could decide to not accept the funding, but some parents tell News 8 that expanding mental health services is a no-brainer.

The school board meeting was meeting Wednesday night at the school district's Central Office, 13485 Cumberland Road, Fishers. About 25 people planned to speak to the board members about the grant. Each person was limited to two minutes of testimony.

Before Wednesday's meeting, Brooke Lawson, the mental health and school counseling coordinator at HSE Schools, told News 8, "I care about the kids here and I feel like they're the ones that lose if we don't accept this funding."

Lane Skeeters, a parent with two students in Hamilton Southeastern Schools, told News 8, "That would be very frustrating to me and my son and his friends and everybody involved."

HSE Schools' grant that totals \$5.7 million is part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

According to Lawson, the school district has seen a gap between students' needs and available mental health services. The grant could provide more high school counselors, and social workers at elementary students.

The Working Hungry documentary film to show in Westfield on Feb. 16

Stay after the film for an expert panel discussion about food insecurity issues across the state of Indiana

The REPORTER
A new documentary film, [The Working Hungry](#), will be shown at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16 at New Joy Lutheran Church, 316 W. 156th St., Westfield, and followed by a panel discussion by many community leaders about food insecurity and hunger in Indiana.

The Working Hungry is a 30-minute film built around the stories of three families, and

through them the stories of more than 700,000 people across the state of Indiana. Most of these are working families, and their hunger is hidden from those around them.

The compelling documentary asks why, in a time of low unemployment and food abundance, is food insecurity and hunger so prevalent and what can be done. *The Working Hungry* will dive deep into the reality of food insecurity in Indiana, and what more could be done to destigmatize the conversation, more clearly understand underlying causes, and truly end hunger.

Following the showing at New Joy Lutheran Church, *The Working Hungry* and relevant discussions will take place statewide hosted by over 30 organizations. Information about all upcoming showings can be found at [Indy Hunger Network](http://IndyHungerNetwork).

The Working Hungry is made possible by Ascension St. Vincent, Indy Hunger Network, and with additional support from Dave and Robin Miner, Steve and Cindy Gillman, and Brandt and Christine Lawson.

The screening at New Joy Lutheran Church is free, but you must reserve a spot on Eventbrite. [Click here](#) to get your spot at the film screening.

HSE GRANT

“Our student-to-school-based mental health professional ratio is really high and receiving this grant is going to help us to lower that and give all kids more access to their school counselors,” Lawson.

School Board Member Suzanne Thomas recently shared her thoughts about the grant on Facebook: “I want our students to have the services and attention they need and as a fiscal conservative, I can only speak for myself, and say I am concerned with the large sum of money of this grant, and how it will affect our school district once the five year term has completed ... The school is not a

health center, the purpose is education. The district must leave the medical services to the professionals.”

HSE parent Jacquelyn Thompson disagreed.

“But when you’re trying to educate a child who has anxiety or depression or lacking social awareness in certain situations you can’t teach them math, you can’t teach them gym, so to be able to have these push ins and support at the schools for the students can make kids like going to school more,” Thompson said.

Fishers City Council Member Jocelyn Vare said, “COVID affected everyone. I don’t think today we fully

understand how much harm it cost us emotionally and physically too especially recovering from the pandemic to have additional mental health support is crucial.”

Another parent, Jill Hutchinson, said, “This grant is for our children, and if the school board decides to vote down the acceptance of this grant, then they are only helping the negative stigma of receiving mental health assistance.”

News 8 reached out to Thomas for comment, but she did not reply before the airing of a story on News 8 at 5 and 6 p.m. Wednesday.

News 8’s Reece Lindquist contributed to this story.

Westfield Chamber offers \$4,000 in scholarships

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber is offering three \$1,000 scholarship opportunities to graduating seniors and one \$1,000 scholarship to an adult furthering their education. The online application can be found at WestfieldChamberIndy.com/scholarships.

During the Westfield Chamber’s 42-year history, the Chamber has awarded tens of thousands of dollars to deserving individuals in Washington Township. The Board of Directors are proud to see the tradition continue again this year.

The 2023 Scholarships are made possible because of the generous support from Westfield companies and individuals. This year’s sponsors include: Steve Rupp, [The Zulu Group | Keller Williams Realty](#); Dr. Paul Kaiser, [Westfield Washington Schools Superintendent](#); and Westfield Chamber of Commerce Individual Member Contributions.

“While the Westfield Chamber will continue to support Westfield High School graduating seniors, we saw a growing need to support other stu-



dents living in Washington Township,” said Janelle Campbell, Immediate Past Westfield Chamber Chairwoman, and Scholarship Ad-Hoc Committee Chair. “I am excited to see the Board expand our scholarship offerings to include all students in Washington Township, including homeschooled students and students attending Guerin Catholic High School, Options High School, or other area schools. There is a real need to support students looking to participate in a vocational school or return to school after some time away. We hope to see our ability to offer these types of scholarships continue to grow in the years to come.”

One of the three scholarships offered is the Hal Eugene Montgomery Entrepreneur Scholarship, named in honor of Montgomery for his entrepreneurial spirit. For 32 years, he worked as an electrician for Navistar. He owned Monty’s Restaurant for eight years

and Westfield Carry-Out liquor store for 30 years. He was active in the Westfield Chamber of Commerce and was an active member of Main Street Productions. He and his wife met at Westfield High School.

Two scholarships are offered to graduating seniors, and a new scholarship named the Dr. Paul Kaiser Continuing Education Scholarship is open to any high school senior or adult in Washington Township who has decided to further their education. The fund is named in honor of current Westfield Washington Schools superintendent Dr. Kaiser, who believes in continuing your education throughout life. Dr. Kaiser has over 40 years of experience in teaching and is a valuable member of the Westfield community.

The scholarships are awarded to Washington Township residents who plan to further their education. The application deadline is Friday, April 14.

ELECTION

from Page 1

Democrats are the party that said government doesn’t work and then get elected and prove it. “Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.” – Ronald Reagan

“In politics, stupidity is not a handicap.” – Napoleon Bonaparte.

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.” – Rosalynn Carter

“Mankind will never see an end of trouble until lovers of wisdom come to hold po-

litical power, or the holders of power become lovers of wisdom.” – Plato

“An honest public servant can’t become rich in politics. He can only attain greatness and satisfaction by service. It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” – Harry S Truman

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;

who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.” – Theodore Roosevelt

An election is coming. Let your voices be heard.

THE WORKING HUNGRY



February 16, 2023 at 7:00pm
New Joy Lutheran Church
316 W 156th St. Westfield, IN 46074

You are invited to see the new documentary *The Working Hungry*, followed by a discussion about food insecurity in our community.

This 30 minute film shares the stories of three Hoosier families, representing 700,000 people across our great state.

In a time of low unemployment why are so many hard-working Hoosier families struggling to make ends meet?

We'll discuss these questions and the solutions happening right here in our community.

Thanks for reading The Reporter!



I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault - it wasn't something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County (nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children). Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don't often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we're breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

- Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:

- Individually packaged snacks
- Lysol
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.



Once you take charge, there's

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SCAN ME



Hamilton County announces Disability Employment Program to provide job opportunities

The REPORTER

A new Hamilton County-based Disability Employment Program trains individuals with disabilities and connects them with job opportunities in the local hospitality industry.

Hamilton County Tourism, Invest Hamilton County, and Janus Developmental Services established the partnership program with support from the local hospitality industry and American Rescue Plan Act recovery funds provided by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and Council.

"Disadvantaged workers and the hospitality industry were both communities hit hard by the pandemic," Invest Hamilton County President & CEO Mike Thibideau said. "This is a high-impact collaboration. Programs like this build community, provide economic opportu-

nity and help fill important roles in our ecosystem."

In December 2022, the first cohort began training at the Hampton Inn Fishers with great success. The individuals enlisted in the program provided pre-cleaning services to over 30 rooms in one day. Guests, employees, and hotel management provided positive feedback and multiple individuals are on the path to permanent part-time positions.

"This program is a win-win for these individuals who could thrive in a lodging community atmosphere, as well as the hotel managers in need of talent to



Thibideau



Myers

Manager of Communications and Special Projects, at jdoyle@investhamilton-county.com.

About Hamilton County Tourism
Hamilton County Tourism Inc. is a nonprof-

it, destination management organization that promotes tourism growth through strategic marketing, hospitality and development initiatives providing hospitality to more than four million visitors to Hamilton County each year.

About Invest Hamilton County

The Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation (dba Invest Hamilton County) is an economic development organization focused on talent attraction, retention, development, and quality of life initiatives throughout Hamilton County. The office works with diverse and dynamic stakeholders from throughout the community to help local residents, businesses, and communities address barriers to economic vitality. For more information, visit InvestHamiltonCounty.com.

Regional Academic Championship taking place Saturday in Westfield

The REPORTER

Some of the brightest students from Indiana are slated to test their knowledge as International Academic Competitions (IAC) holds its Indiana Winter Regional on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The event will feature individual competitions in history, geography, and science. Each event follows a buzzer-based question-and-answer format, somewhat like

Jeopardy! but with all questions drawn from the academic curriculum. Top finishers will qualify for the IAC National Championships in Arlington, Va., in June.

The Indiana event will take place at Westfield Middle School, 345 Hoover St. Competition runs from approximately 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with finals tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 5 p.m.

International Academic Competitions

Founded by 19-time *Jeopardy!* champion David Madden in 2011, International Academic Competitions runs events for elementary, middle, and high school students across the country and around the world. The worldwide

schedule features the International History Olympiad in Rome and the International Environmental Science Olympiad in Ecuador during the summer of 2023. More information about IAC can be found at iacompetitions.com.

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List your group's events on
The Reporter's Events Calendar!
READTHEREPORTER.COM/EVENTS



Common Foot & Ankle Conditions

We know good health can mean *a sturdy foundation.*

Presented by
Sarah Standish, DPM

Thursday, Feb. 23
6-7 p.m.

Location: Riverview Health
395 Westfield Rd., Noblesville
Krieg DeVault conference room
(entrance 3)

To register, visit
riverview.org/classes,
call 317.776.7999
or scan the QR code below



Join Dr. Sarah Standish, podiatric surgeon, as she discusses common foot and ankle conditions she sees in her practice. Dr. Standish will explain the pathology of the foot and ankle, including injuries, concerns for high-risk patients, screening tools and treatment strategies.

The program is free, but registration is required.

Main Street Productions, Inc. Presents

Night Must Fall

By Emlyn Williams

Directed by Ian Hauer

February 9th-19th, 2023

Thursday, Friday, Saturday Shows at 7:30 pm,
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New arts camp aimed at youth with disabilities

Prism Project launches in June at the Center for the Performing Arts

The REPORTER

Children and young adults with disabilities can explore their talents and make new friends at a summer camp debuting in June at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

Adapted from a concept developed at Ball State University, the Prism Project at the Center is a four-week performing arts camp designed for people aged 6 to 22 with physical, developmental and cognitive disabilities. With guidance and one-on-one support from trained instructors and non-disabled peer volunteers, the participants learn about self-expression through theater, dance, and vocal and instrumental music. The program will culminate in an original group performance on June 25.

The goal of the Prism Project is to provide an engaging performing arts program and close the gap in recreational activities for



individuals with disabilities such as autism, cognitive delays, limited verbal communication abilities and alternative communication requirements, as well as physical disabilities and sensory support needs such as vision and hearing impairments. The activities are designed to help participants develop self-confidence, gain creative arts experience and build relationships.

The Prism Project at the Center also provides volunteer opportunities for college students and high school juniors and seniors who are interested in working with people with disabilities.

“We’re proud to be offering a new program that aligns so well with our educational mission and also

advances the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion in our community,” said Jeffrey C. McDermott, President and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts.

After a parent orientation session on May 31, the camp sessions are scheduled 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 2 to 23. The final performance will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 25, at the Center’s Studio Theater.

Camp registration is available at TheCenterPresents.org/PrismProjectCamp. For more information on accommodations and volunteer opportunities with the Prism Project at the Center, email Outreach@TheCenterPresents.org.

Ivy Tech Hamilton County Chancellor to speak at Westfield Chamber luncheon

The REPORTER

The Westfield Chamber of Commerce will hold its **February luncheon** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16 at The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Blvd., Westfield. The luncheon will feature Ivy Tech Hamilton County Chancellor Dr. Stacy Atkinson.

With Ivy Tech Hamilton County established as the newest campus of the community college system, Westfield has had a front-row seat to watch Dr. Atkinson, the faculty, and the staff of the Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus grow into a campus with 44 programs, the ability to confer its own

degrees, and build a team from 16 full-time employees to 58.

Dr. Atkinson will talk about the growing campus and how it is helping to meet the needs of Hamilton County students. She will also discuss ways your business can partner with Ivy Tech.

Ivy Tech recognizes the growing demand for additional staff training across many industries, so she will discuss how they meet that need today and plan for the future.

The cherry on top: Dr.



Atkinson

Atkinson will share some insight into her leadership mantra, her ability to build relationships everywhere she goes, and what it means to represent your company or brand in the community. She has an insightful message to share and will no doubt keep you laughing throughout her presentation.

The Westfield Chamber encourages all members to come to learn more about the community college right here in your backyard.

[Click here](#) to register for the luncheon.

Democrats putting up more mayoral candidates across Indiana

The REPORTER

The Indiana Democratic Party announced on Wednesday some of the candidates who are running for mayor in cities across the state. According to party officials, these individuals bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to their races and are committed to working for the betterment of their communities.

“We are thrilled to have such a dynamic group of candidates running for may-

oral offices across Indiana,” said Mike Schmuhl, Chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party. “These individuals bring a unique set of skills and experiences to their races, and these leaders – among many others as well – are ready to tackle the challenges facing their cities and our state.”

In Carmel, Miles Nelson, a small business own-



Nelson

er and the first Democratic city councilor in city history, is running for mayor in the open seat left by the retirement of longtime Mayor Jim Brainard. Democrats have made major inroads in the Indianapolis suburb with Democratic candidates winning the city in 2022 and President Joe

See Democrats . . . Page 5

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Member **FDIC**



Three sculptures were given the People’s Choice Awards. (From left) First place: “Chicken Fried” by Jim Houser; second place: “Moose” by Ben Goebel; third place: “Wall-E and Eve” by Shannon Gerasimchik.

Photos provided by City of Carmel

Carmel announces Festival of Ice carving winners

The REPORTER

The awards have been announced for this year’s Festival of Ice, which took place Jan. 20 along Main Street and the Ice at Carter Green. Once again, a talented group of ice carvers from around the Midwest came to Carmel to showcase their skills.

The Festival of Ice, along with this weekend’s Carmel Winter Games, provides Carmel residents and visitors something fun to do in the colder months. When properly dressed, outdoor events can be fun and refreshing and help participants beat the frosty doldrums. In addition, local shops and restaurants continue to benefit as the city programs events throughout winter.

On the final day of competition, a large crowd cheered as the half-dozen ice carvers competed head-to-head in a high speed carve-off at The Ice at Carter Green. From a goldfish jumping out of a fish bowl to an intricate butterfly to the Excalibur sword, spec-



Photo provided by City of Carmel

(Standing, from left) Nancy Heck, City of Carmel Community Relations and Economic Development Director; Shannon Gerasimchik of New Bremen, Ohio; Ben Goebel of Whitmore Lake, Mich.; Stephan Koch of Daleville, Ind.; Matthew Stoddart of Nicholasville, Ky.; and Dan Rebholz of Addison, Ill. (Kneeling) Jim Houser of Huntington, Ind.

tators enjoyed watching the ice sculptures come to life. The Speed Carving Awards went to Shannon

Gerasimchik, first place; Dan Rebholz, second place; and Ben Goebel, third place.

Mark your calendars – next year’s Festival of Ice is scheduled for Jan. 19 to 21, 2024.

Utility infrastructure improvements in Carmel made possible by budget savings

The REPORTER

The City of Carmel and the Utilities Department are completing a sewer line rehabilitation project thanks to budgetary savings from a wastewater plant expansion project in 2020.

This project was completed underbudget by \$600,000. Those savings were then used by the Utilities Department to make much-needed improvements to sewer lines throughout

the city.

The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) issued a \$15.9 million loan to Carmel Utilities in April of 2020 for the following projects:

- Wastewater Plant Expansion to 14 million gallons per day from 12 million gallons per day
- Construction of new Chemical Feed Building at the Wastewater Plant
- Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

- Solar Panel Installation at 106th Street and Hazel Dell Parkway

The IFA approved the use of the \$600,000 in savings for other projects.

Thanks to those unexpected savings, several upgrades were able to be completed, including a sewer lining project consisting of 14 gravity mains, a 36-inch interceptor gravity sewer main, two 12-inch gravity sewer mains and 11 eight-

inch gravity sewer mains.

The city was also able to make much-needed improvements to nearly a dozen sanitary manholes.

Most of the work occurred on various streets within subdivisions that are at or near 50 years old. The areas included Village of Mt. Carmel, Johnson Acres, Wilson Village, Cool Creek, Eden Glen, Brookshire, Woodland Springs, Auman Addition, and Briar Creek.

DEMOCRATS

Biden winning the “round-about capital of the world” in 2020.

Other mayoral candidates around the state include:

- Stephanie Terry in Evansville
- Erin Easter in West Lafayette
- Jeff Robinson in Muncie

“These candidates represent the future of our state, and we are eager to support them in their efforts to lead their communities forward for a better Indiana,” Schmuhl said.

“We are confident that these candidates will bring new energy and ideas to our state and help build the bench for the future of our party.”

from Page 4

HARLEM QUARTET

It's all about Love

7:30pm, SAT., FEBRUARY 11
The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts

TICKETS START AT JUST \$25
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Excursions board out of Noblesville at 825 Forest Park Drive.

NickelPlateExpress.com

HOBS STATION
FOREST PARK DEPOT
All Aboard!

Valentine's Express

February 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Climb aboard a historic train to experience a unique 90-minute ride through Hamilton County. Families in the Platinum and Standard seating will enjoy a special themed treat and drink while taking in the sights and sounds of our 1950s train.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets

Uncorked Express

Saturday, March 11th
2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sip on a dry red or relax with a sweet rose in our 1956 Santa Fe Dining car. Each ticket includes 3 wine samples along with a charcuterie cup to enjoy.

Saturday, March 11

NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets

St. Patrick's Day Express

Adult only- Friday, March 17th
5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Jam to bagpipers and Irish tunes while enjoying an evening on the rails

Family friendly rides Saturday, March 18th
1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

While on board hear Irish music and maybe catch a glimpse of a live leprechaun

Saturday, March 11

NickelPlateExpress.com for Tickets

Rep. Goodrich’s bill to increase earned income tax credit advances to State Senate

The REPORTER

The Indiana House of Representatives on Monday unanimously advanced State Rep. Chuck Goodrich's (R-Noblesville) **bill to increase the state's earned income tax credit** from 10 to 12 percent.

Goodrich said this legislation would provide additional tax relief to work-

ing Hoosiers struggling to make ends meet. This tax credit is available to low-to moderate-income workers, providing tax relief for an estimated 500,000 Hoosiers.

“Increasing this tax credit could be a great benefit for working families around the state and can play a role in combatting generational poverty,”

Goodrich said. “We want to support those in the workforce, especially as employers continue to experience challenges filling job openings.”

Goodrich said the bill would also couple Indiana to the current federal



Goodrich

earned income tax credit. By coupling with the federal tax credit, Hoosiers will be able to benefit from this expanded relief, including families with foster children or more than three children. According to a study

by the Tax Foundation, the earned income tax brought 5.8 million people, including approximately 3 million children, out of poverty in 2016.

Goodrich said this legislation builds on **House Enrolled Act 1009**, which he authored in 2021, that increased the earned income tax credit from 9 to 10 percent and put over

\$10 million annually back into the hands of Hoosiers.

House Bill 1290 now heads to the Indiana Senate for further consideration. For more information about this legislation, visit iga.in.gov.

State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) represents House District 29, which includes a portion of Hamilton County.

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Better Business Bureau offers these tips to help you spot Valentine’s Day scams

The REPORTER

This Valentine’s Day is shaping up to be big, according to projections by the **National Retail Federation**, which suggests that consumer spending will reach nearly \$26 billion.

As you prepare to celebrate, there are few common scams that you need to be aware of. Whether you’re hoping to spark a new relationship or buying gifts for loved ones, beware of these three scams regularly reported to BBB.

Impostor websites

From fake **jewelry** sellers to online dating sites, consumers should always be on the alert for **impostor websites**. Scammers can easily lift official photos, sale promotions and logos directly from the website for a popular jewelry brand. With professional graphics and unbeatable prices, scammers build an attractive website that looks eerily similar to the real thing.

Similar methods may be used to build fake online dating platforms, which are often used to steal personal data and credit card infor-

mation. For more tips to spot fake websites, read the **guide to smart shopping online**.

Red flags:

- Products are available at extreme discounts.
- The seller requests customers pay with **cash transfer apps** or **cryptocurrency**.
- Customer service is unreachable.

Romance scams

Romance scammers often target vulnerable people who have experienced a recent breakup or other hardship. They take advantage of that heartbreak to establish a connection and gain sympathy. Once they’ve gotten their victim on the hook with a sad story, they begin pursuing their true goal – money.

Falling victim to a romance scam can be particularly devastating. Victims can lose thousands of dollars, and they’re often left feeling heartbroken and betrayed because they really believed they’d found a good partner. Read more about **romance scams** for safe online dating advice.

Red flags:

- The relationship moves very fast.
- You never meet in person.
- They ask for money.

Wrong number scam

Responding to a text message from someone who messaged the wrong number might seem harmless. In fact, it might even seem like the polite thing to do, if they say they’re looking to reconnect with a potential match.

The text message, however, is bait to lure you into a conversation. If you keep chatting, they eventually try to get your personal information by directing you to sign up for an adult site. Learn more about **wrong number texts and scam bots**.

Red flags:

- The messages don’t stop.
- The sender directs you to sign up for a website.
- They try to get your personal information.

Fake florist scam

Ordering flowers for Valentine’s Day? Don’t procrastinate or you may end up falling for a scam. BBB

has received many reports of shoppers who thought they were ordering flowers from an online florist ... but either got nothing at all, or a disappointing arrangement. **Don’t let phony florists ruin Valentine’s Day.**

Red flags:

- The business has no reviews or bad reviews, always check **BBB.org**.
- You can’t find a return policy or satisfaction guarantee.
- The deal is "too good to be true."

What to do if you encounter a scam

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to **BBB.org/ScamTracker**. Dating site users should also report suspicious activity to the platform, so they can take action against the scammers account.

See more BBB's Valentine's Day scam alerts and tips at **BBB.org/Valentine**.

For more information about romance scams, visit **BBB.org/romance**.

Representative

Victoria Spartz

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Victor G. Farias

September 27, 1937 – February 7, 2023

Victor G. Farias, 85, Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Riverview Health in Noblesville. He was born on September 27, 1937, to Andres and Gregoria (Garcia) Farias in Edinburg, Texas.

Victor served in the National Guard. He worked as a mechanic for Inland Steel Company in East Chicago, Ind., for 40 years. Victor was a devoted member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, a Eucharistic Minister, member of their choir, attended Bible studies, and helped with the Hispanic Ministry. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul. Victor enjoyed woodworking and painting. He was a former member and past president of Merrillville League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 5009. Victor was very outgoing and lived his life with compassion and serving others. He never met a stranger and treated everyone like family, showing them the kindness and respect they deserved. Most important to Victor was God, his faith, and his family.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lourdes M. Farias; children, Victor Farias Jr., Delia (Timothy) Dunn, Dianna (Mellissa) Stringham, Rick (Cheryl) Farias, and Rey (Marsha) Farias; grandchildren, Jerrica (Joseph) Bolich, Blake Farias, Patrick (Anna) Magee, Collin Farias, James (Brooklyn) Magee, Nathan Farias, Griffin Dunn, Marilyn Farias, Sarah Farias, Lucas Farias, Susan Farias, Shelby Dunn, Cara (Patrick) Luther, Riley Hescher, and Audrey Hescher; great-grandchildren, Joseph Bolich, II, Patrick Magee, III, Atreus Luther, and Seranna Luther; siblings, Dennis (Yvonne) Farias, Jorge (Yolanda) Farias, Virginia Corpus, Maty Billman, Rory Melendes, Oralia Lovelace, and Ruby (Lance) Farias; and brothers-in-law, Joseph Zaragoza and Ted Layton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Fred Farias, Alicia Layton, and Andrea Zaragoza.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 10, 2023, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 9900 E. 191st St., Noblesville with an additional hour of visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church. Burial will be at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 681405, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1405, (cancer.org); or National Foundation for Transplants, 3249 W. Sarazen's Cir., Ste. 100, Memphis, TN 38125, (transplants.org).

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Donas Yvonne Montgomery

October 25, 1935 – February 6, 2023

Donas Yvonne Montgomery, 87, Noblesville, passed away on Monday, February 6, 2023, at her home. She was born on October 25, 1935, to Woodrow and Grace (Langolf) Swinford.

For 13 years, Donas worked as a nurse's aide. She was a member of Open Door Free Methodist Church. Donas loved watching Western movies and listening to Elvis. She enjoyed pets, doing puzzles, fishing, and playing slot machines at the casino. Most of all, Donas loved her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

She is survived by her daughter, Dena (Tony) Pryor; son, Darran (Deanna) Montgomery; five grandchildren, Shannon (Luther) Triplett, Amanda (Trevor) Scoles, Heather (Allen) Simmons, Holly Montgomery, and Darran (Taylor) Montgomery Jr.; and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Donas was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis Montgomery Jr.; son, Donald Montgomery; and her sisters, Betty Dunbar and Shirley Nens.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m., with a memorial service at 2 p.m., on Monday, February 13, 2023, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, in Noblesville. Pastor Jeff Gammon will officiate.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

Meeting Notices

The Carmel Clay Schools Board of Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at the Carmel Clay Schools Educational Services Center, 5201 E. Main St., Carmel.

The Hamilton County Election Board will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, in the Clerk's Conference Room at the Hamilton County Government & Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville.

TriCo Regional Sewer Utility will hold its monthly Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 7236 Mayflower Park Drive, Zionsville.

The Noblesville Common Council will meet for a work session at noon on Friday, March 3, 2023, in Room A213 at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

The Cicero Town Council will meet for an executive session at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at the Cicero Police Department, 70 S. Byron St., Cicero, according to Indiana Code IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B) Initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. As used in this clause, "litigation" includes any judicial action or administrative law proceeding under federal or state law.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County E911 Executive Board will meet to discuss E911 operations at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2023, in the Mayor's Conference Room at Noblesville City Hall, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville.

Send Meeting Notices to:
Notices@ReadTheReporter.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

*From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.*

Revelation 7:1-8 (NIV)

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Donna Bussell

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Greyhounds will try to make more history at state swim meet this weekend

The REPORTER

The Carmel girls swim team could be in for a historic weekend Friday and Saturday when the Greyhounds head down to the IU Natatorium for the IHSAA state finals.

It's easy to say "What else is new," when it comes to Carmel, but the Greyhounds always seem to find new ways to re-write the record books. First on Carmel's mind will be extending its record state championship streak: The Greyhounds will be going for a 37th straight state title.

Carmel qualified all 27 of its swimmers to the state prelims, which take place Friday evening. The IHSAA released heat sheets and psych sheets for the meet earlier this week, and the Greyhounds are the top seeds in seven of the 12 events. That includes all three relays, where Carmel hopes to keep another streak going: Since the 2009 state meet, the 'Hounds have won 41 of 42 relay events.

Berit Berglund is looking for her fourth consecutive title in the 100 backstroke. The Carmel senior set the state record of 51.50 in last year's prelims and then equaled the same time

in the championship final. She is the top seed in this year's meet after a 54.31 performance in last Saturday's sectional meet. With a fourth title, Berglund would become the 12th individual overall and second backstroke to pull off a career sweep, joining former Greyhound Claire Adams (2013-16).

Carmel sophomore Alex Shackell set a state record in the 100 butterfly in this meet a year ago winning in a time of 51.71. She is the top seed in the event this year at 52.04, nearly two and a half seconds faster than next best time. The last swimmer to win the butterfly in her first two years was Leslie Place of Fort Wayne Snider in 1991 and 1992. Shackell is also the top seed in the 50 freestyle at 22.42, just ahead of defending champion Lilian Christianson (22.60). Shackell also swam a leg on two of the Greyhounds' championship relay teams including the state record setting 200 medley team.

A newcomer to Carmel's team, freshman Molly Sweeney is the top seed in the breaststroke (1 minute, 1.94 seconds). The Greyhounds have the top three seeds in that event: Senior



Richie Hall / File photo
Carmel swim coach Chris Plumb talks with his team during the Greyhounds' warmdown after the sectional prelims last Thursday. Carmel will begin its quest for a record 37th consecutive state championship Friday in the prelims at the IU Natatorium.

Vivian Wilson is the second seed at 1:02.40, while another freshman, Lucy Enoch, is the third seed at 1:02.94. In addition, Carmel has another defending state champion in the field. Lynsey Bowen's time of 4:45.15 tied the 500 freestyle state record in the first year of her high school career in 2022. She became just the fourth freshman to win the event and the

See History . . . Page 9

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Noblesville's Trey Speek to play football at University of Findlay



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Noblesville senior Trey Speek has committed to play football at the University of Findlay. (Front row, from left) Irelynn Speek (sister), Trey Speek, and Amy Speek (mother). (Back row, from left) Olivia Speek (sister) and Keegan Speek (brother).

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Basketball



Fishers' Talia Harris (left) and Noblesville's Reagan Wilson (right) are two of the players that have been selected to the Hamilton County Reporter's All-Sectional 8 First Team.

Kent Graham / File photo

Reporter announces All-Sectional 8 Team

The REPORTER

There shouldn't be much argument that Sectional 8 is the toughest girls basketball sectional in the state of Indiana.

Four of the top five teams in the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association rankings participated in the sectional, which drew sold-out crowds to The Mill in Noblesville. Each of the teams that competed have several talented players on their roster.

Reporter sports writer Craig Adkins, who attended all five of the sectional games, put together his All-Sectional 8 Team in order to highlight the top players in the sectional. Here are his picks for First Team, Second Team and Honorable Mention.

FIRST TEAM

Name	School	Grade
Olivia Smith	Fishers	Senior
Hailey Smith	Fishers	Senior
Riley Makaluksy	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Reagan Wilson	Noblesville	Junior
Meredith Tippner	Noblesville	Sophomore
Talia Harris	Fishers	Junior
Laila Hull	Zionsville	Senior

SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Grade
Ava Shoemaker	Noblesville	Junior
Maya Makaluksy	Hamilton Southeastern	Sophomore
Kate Thomas	Fishers	Junior
Olivia Brown	Hamilton Southeastern	Senior
Emma Haan	Zionsville	Junior

HONORABLE MENTION

Name	School	Grade
Alycia Triplett	Fishers	Senior
Joirdyn Smith	Fishers	Junior
Faith Leedy	Zionsville	Junior
Hannah Lach	Carmel	Senior
Ellie Kelleher	Westfield	Junior

HISTORY

Carmel sophomore will look for a repeat performance this weekend. Leah Retrum of Columbus North was the last sophomore to win the event her first two years on her way to a four-year sweep from 2000-2003. Bowen's sectional time of 5:03.78 was the 10th best time in the state last weekend.

Carmel won the state meet last year by scoring 461 points, and set the record for points scored two years ago with 479 points.

Meanwhile, Fishers holds the top seed in three events. Senior Josephine "Jo Jo" Ramey is seeded first in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:48.16, and the 500 free with a time of 4:48.27. Another senior, Kate Mouser, is seeded first in the individual medley (2:00.48). Mouser is also the second seed in the 500 free at 4:48.35.

The Tigers have been the state runners-up for the past three years; Fishers totaled 283 points at last year's meet, by far the most ever for the Tigers. Fishers qualified 22 swimmers for the state.

Next in line is Hamilton Southeastern, with 14 swimmers qualified. Junior Audrey Crawford holds two high seeds, with a second seed in the butterfly (54.51

and a third seed in the IM (2:00.72).

Noblesville qualified six for state, with Maya McDonald leading the way. The junior is seeded 10th in the breaststroke and is only 0.17 seconds off eighth place. The top eight at Friday's prelims qualify for the championship heat, with positions nine to 16 qualifying for the consolation heat.

Westfield has two relays at state: The medley and the 200 free relay. Hamilton Heights junior Teegan Madara qualified in the IM and the 500 free; she is seeded ninth in the latter event.

Here is a list of state qualifiers from Hamilton County, along with their seeds and sectional times.

200 medley relay: 1. Carmel 1:39.26, 3. Fishers 1:42.96, 4. Hamilton Southeastern 1:43.12, 25. Westfield 1:50.00.

200 freestyle: 1. Jo Jo Ramey (F) 1:48.16, 2. Lynsey Bowen (C) 1:48.27, 3. Alexandra Ward (C) 1:48.86, 4. Erin Cummins (C) 1:49.23, 11. Emma Schumacher (F) 1:53.30.

200 individual medley: 1. Kate Mouser (F) 2:00.48, 2. Molly Sweeney (C) 2:00.58, 3. Audrey Crawford (HSE) 2:00.72, 4. Vivian Wilson (C) 2:01.43, 5. Avery Stein (F) 2:01.81, 6. Alyssa Street (C) 2:03.56, 10. Anna Stolle (HSE) 2:06.21, 16. Av-

ery Hannon (F) 2:07.89, 18. Katelyn Kertin (HSE) 2:08.43, 21. Teegan Madara (HH) 2:08.83.

50 freestyle: 1. Alex Shackell (C) 22.42, 4. Meghan Christman (C) 23.13, 8. Grace Dougherty (C) 23.62, 9. Addison Carille (F) 23.64, 17. Claire Francis (F) 24.07, 19. Emma Schwertfeger (F) 24.09.

One-meter diving: 10. Gretchen Osmun (F) 397.10, 18. Melaina Munson (C) 362.65, 19. Eryn McMahon (N) 362.25, 24. Ella Penny (HSE) 341.30.

100 butterfly: 1. Shackell (C) 52.04, 2. Crawford (HSE) 54.51, 3. Keira Kask (C) 54.65, 8. Carille (F) 55.80, 18. Parker Kurzawa (C) 56.75, 20. Haddie Vohs (N) 57.07.

100 freestyle: 4. Cummins (C) 51.20, 5. Berit Berglund (C) 51.24, 7. Dougherty (C) 51.68, 11. Cortez (F) 52.36, 15. Schwertfeger (F) 52.64, 18. Francis (F) 52.76, 21. Ashley Saple (HSE) 52.83, 24. Kiley Zoeller (HSE) 53.30.

500 freestyle: 1. J. Ramey (F) 4:48.27, 2. Mouser (F) 4:48.35, 3. Ward (C) 4:50.37, 6. Alyssa Street (C) 4:58.15, 9. Madara (HH) 5:03.56, 10. Bowen (C) 5:03.78, 16. Sabrina Ledwith (N) 5:07.88, 22. Frankie Ramey (F) 5:10.37.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Carmel 1:33.82, 2. Fishers 1:34.45, 9. Southeastern 1:36.85, 16. Noblesville 1:38.52, 21. Westfield 1:39.49.

100 backstroke: 1. Berglund (C) 54.31, 3. Kask (C) 55.12, 11. Grace Newton (HSE) 56.94, 12. Kayla Barr (C) 56.96, 15. Naomi Haines (HSE) 57.29, 17. Avery Hannon (F) 57.71, 24. Caroline Santerre (N) 58.91.

100 breaststroke: 1. Sweeney (C) 1:01.94, 2. Wilson (C) 1:02.40, 3. Enoch (C) 1:02.94, 5. Stein (F)

1:03.30, 10. Maya McDonald (N) 1:04.18, 13. Stolle (HSE) 1:04.88, 17. Eloise Harrison (HSE) 1:05.67, 22. Kertin (HSE) 1:06.19, 23. Schumacher (F) 1:06.31.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Carmel 3:23.62, 2. Fishers 3:26.35, 5. Southeastern 3:30.32, 14. Noblesville 3:38.16.

from Page 8

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 9

BOYS BASKETBALL

Guerin Catholic at Indpls. Washington, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Fishers at Roncalli, 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 10

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brownsburg at Noblesville, 7:30 p.m.

Fishers at Cathedral, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Sheridan at Carroll, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Hamilton Heights, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING

Girls state prelims, 6 p.m. at IU Natatorium

Saturday, Feb. 11

BOYS BASKETBALL

Carmel at Fort Wayne Carroll, 4:30 p.m.

Southport at Hamilton Southeastern, 7:30 p.m.

Westfield at Lewis Cass, 7:30 p.m.

Park Tudor at University

(PAAC championship game), 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONALS

At Southmont

University vs. Eastern Hancock, 1 p.m.

At Marion

Fishers vs. Homestead, 4 p.m.

At Belmont

Hamilton Heights at Norwell, 4 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Noblesville at Connersville Invitational, 9 a.m.

Fishers at Bloomington North Invitational, 10 a.m.

SWIMMING

Girls state diving prelims and semi-finals, 9 a.m. at IU Natatorium

Girls swimming and diving state finals, 1 p.m. at IU Natatorium

WRESTLING

Semi-state at New Castle, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fishers at Lawrence North, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton Southeastern at Franklin Central, 7:30 p.m.

University at Westfield, 7:30 p.m.

GYMNASTICS

Fishers, Noblesville, Westfield at Franklin Central, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16

BOYS SWIMMING SECTIONALS

Carmel, Guerin Catholic, Westfield at Noblesville, 5:30 p.m.

Fishers, Hamilton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern, 6 p.m.

University at North Central, 6 p.m.

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